

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 to read as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus for recording an image onto a recording medium using recording means having, at least, a first recording element and a second recording element, the recording apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing ~~a pattern~~ patterns, corresponding to each of n levels of record data (n is an integer equal to or larger than 3), and representing the presence or absence of a dot at each of a plurality of recording dot positions, the patterns stored in the storage means corresponding to the first and second recording elements;

a buffer for storing data to be recorded by the first and second recording elements;

means for acquiring, from the storage means, the patterns of the n levels of record data corresponding to each of the first and second recording elements, and for expanding the patterns in the buffer; and

recording control means for controlling the first and second recording elements to record the data expanded in the buffer,

wherein ~~the pattern stored in the storage means is a pattern in which~~ a dot to be recorded in the pattern corresponding to the first recording element and a dot to be recorded in the pattern corresponding to the second recording element, at the same level, do not coincide with each other in position except in the pattern at the highest level n.

2. (Original) A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first and second recording elements are different from each other in the size of dots for recording.

3. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the pattern stored in the storage means is a pattern in which~~ a dot to be recorded in the pattern of the first recording element and a dot to be recorded in the pattern of the second recording element, at the same level, do not overlap each other in position except in the pattern at the highest level n.

4. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the pattern stored in the storage means is a pattern in which~~ dots to be recorded in a plurality of patterns corresponding to the first recording element at each of the n levels and dots to be recorded in a plurality of patterns corresponding to the second recording element at each of the levels do not overlap each other in position except in the pattern at the highest level n.

5. (Original) A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first recording element and the second recording element are different in recording color.

6. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus according to claim 5, ~~wherein, at least,~~ wherein at least yellow, magenta, and cyan inks are ejected for recording,

and wherein the first recording element and the second recording element eject the cyan ink and the magenta ink, respectively.

7. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a plurality of recording elements that record dots different in size at least at in predetermined colors of a plurality of colors, and wherein the patterns respectively used for the plurality of recording elements that record dots different in size do not coincide with each other in the recording dot positions except in the pattern at the highest level n.

8. (Original) A recording apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the predetermined colors are magenta and cyan.

9. (Currently amended) A control method for a recording apparatus that records an image on a recording medium using recording means including, at least, a first recording element and a second recording element, the control method comprising the steps of:

acquiring ~~a pattern~~ patterns, stored in storage means, representing the presence or absence of a dot at each of plurality of recording dot positions in response to record data at n levels (n is an integer equal to or larger than 3) for each of the first recording element and the second recording element;

expanding the patterns corresponding to the first recording element and the second recording element in a buffer; and

~~and~~ recording the image using the recording means in response to data of respective dots expanded ~~on~~ in the buffer,

wherein the storage means stores the patterns at each of n levels for each of the first recording element and the second recording element, and

wherein a dot to be recorded in the pattern corresponding to the first recording element and a dot to be recorded in the pattern corresponding to the second recording element, at the same level, do not coincide with each other in position except in the pattern at the highest level n.